

Franco American Studies

An academic minor

Contact

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 Franco American Studies
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Admission Requirements

(In years as established by the college)

A high school diploma with the following specific courses:

- 4 English
- 2 Algebra I & II
- 1 Geometry
- 2 Lab Science (including biology)
- 2 History/Social Studies
- 2 Foreign Language
(same language or two years of American Sign Language)
- Academic electives (to equal at least 17 credits)

To ensure current mathematical skills, students should take a mathematics course during their senior year of high school.

Did You Know?

- UMaine is the only institution to offer a minor in Franco American Studies.
- The term Franco American refers specifically to people of Quebecois and Acadian heritage living in the U.S. Depending on the state, Franco Americans constitute from 10 percent to almost 30 percent of New England populations.
- French is the most commonly spoken language after English in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. These New England Franco American communities constitute the largest concentration of French speakers in the U.S.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Program Description

Franco American Studies is an interdisciplinary program that explores the French cultures of the United States. Its emphasis is on the people of Franco American heritage in Maine and the Northeast region, but it recognizes that cultural patterns do not stop at national borders. Franco American Studies is situated in the contexts of American ethnicity and the worldwide francophone community. It draws from a variety of methods and sources. Its curriculum focuses on the Franco American past and its present, giving special attention to both class and gender. Literature and the social significance of the French language are also emphasized. Many of our lower-level courses fulfill UMaine's general education requirements, providing a thematic continuity across general education requirements.

The Franco American Studies Program at the University of Maine is a collaboration of researchers and teachers. The program offers a minor in Franco American Studies, as well as courses at all levels. In addition, it seeks to extend the reach of its teaching and research beyond the university. The program organizes conferences, film series, public lectures, workshops and reading groups that allow students, faculty and community members to expand their knowledge of Franco American history, culture and literature.

Specialized Information

We seek to make the University of Maine into an international center for Franco American community outreach and scholarly research. The university's land-grant mission to serve the people of Maine and its large Franco American population, its location close to Canada, and its role as the state's flagship campus present a unique opportunity to build upon our strengths and create a national and international profile.

Associated Honor Societies and Student Organizations

The Franco American Center on campus is a gathering place for students, faculty and community. FAROG, the Franco-American Resource Opportunity Group, is a Franco American student organization that meets weekly at the Franco American Center, often to share a home-cooked meal. They also travel, raise money for scholarships and perform community service.

Career and Graduate Opportunities

Franco American Studies prepares students to work with and understand one of the Northeast's largest ethnic groups; to comprehend better the French cultures of North America; to investigate the specific and local construction of race and ethnicity; to learn about the cultural heritage of Maine; and to research the literature, language and history of Franco Americans.

Students who have taken FAS courses have pursued careers as healthcare workers, social workers, web designers, musicians and French teachers, and headed to graduate school.

Representative Courses

FAS 101 Introduction to Franco American Studies
FAS 120 People, Places and Pasts
FAS 240 French Exploration and Settlement of Maine, 1604-1760
FAS 220 Franco American Literature in English
FAS 230 Franco American Women's Experience

FAS 329 Topics in Franco American Studies
FAS 440 Franco American Civilization
FAS 442 French Language of North America
FAS 459 Colonial Canada

UMaine Graduate Programs

Master of Arts in North American French
Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy in History

About UMaine

The University of Maine, founded in Orono in 1865, is the state's premier public university. It is among the most comprehensive higher education institutions in the Northeast and attracts students from across the U.S. and more than 60 countries. It currently enrolls 12,000 total undergraduate and graduate students who can directly participate in groundbreaking research working with world-class scholars. Students are offered 88 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, 25 doctoral programs and one of the oldest and most prestigious honors programs in the U.S. The university promotes environmental stewardship on its campus, with substantial efforts aimed at conserving energy, recycling and adhering to green building standards in new construction. For more information about UMaine, go online (umaine.edu). Equal opportunity information also is available online (umaine.edu/eo).

How do I apply?

Visit go.umaine.edu for an application, as well as information about academics and life at UMaine.



Academic Programs 2011-12

The latest versions of the UMaine fact sheets are online (factsheets.umaine.edu). This fact sheet is intended for informational purposes only and is subject to change.

